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Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /108 W
---------- 058053
P R 171045Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3367
INFO SECDEF
CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 8080

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TH
SUBJ: FY 74 MAP ALLOTMENTS

REF : BANGKOK 7820

1. THAI DISTRESS OVER US FAILURE TO DELIVER ON PROMISED 1974 MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS THREATENING TO AFFECT THAI/US RELATIONS. MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAWI TOLD AMBASSADOR KINTNER JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE THE SITUATION WAS VERY SERIOUS AND HE HAD DIRECTED THE ARMED SERVICES TO REVIEW THEIR ENTIRE PROGRAMS FOR CURRENT THAI FISCAL YEAR IN LIGHT OF EMERGENCY SITUATION POSED BY LACK US MAP SUPPORT. GENERAL SURAKIT, AS CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME COMMAND, GAVE MORE DETAIL REGARDING THAI DISTRESS IN MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM MAY 13, AS REPORTED REFTEL. MACTHAI CONTACTS WITH SERVICES ALSO REVEAL EXTENT OF PROBLEM WHEN ONLY $6.7 MILLION OF US ASSISTANCE HAS YET BEEN ALLOCATED JUST SIX WEEKS BEFORE END OF OUR FISCAL YEAR.

2. ALTHOUGH THE THAI MILITARY LEADERS ARE PREPARED TO AGREE THAT OUR MAP-FINANCED SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA IS IN THAI INTEREST, THEY ARE ALSO SENSITIVE TO PRESENCE OF PATHET LAO TROOPS ON THE THAI/LAOTIAN BORDER AND THE SUPPORT FROM OUT-OF-COUNTRY TO THE VARIOUS INSURGENT GROUPS WITHIN THAILAND. THEY WOULD BE
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PREPARED TO TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS TO HELP THEIR NEIGHBORS, BUT

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CONSIDER THAT LOSS OF PROMISED FINANCIAL SUPPORT SO LATE IN
THEIR FISCAL YEAR WILL HAVE FAR MORE DRASTIC EFFECTS THAN ARE
ACCEPTABLE TO MAINTAIN RTARF VIABILITY.

2. DESPITE ALL OUR INTEREST IN CREATING A NEW IMAGE IN OUR
RELATIONS WITH THAILAND BY PLACING NEW EMPHASIS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH SIGNIFI-
CANT ASSISTANCE IN THEIR FIELDS EITHER. OUR PRINCIPAL COMMIT-
MENT IN THAILAND REMAINS OUR MILITARY FORCES STATIONED HERE IN
PURSUIT OF US NATIONAL INTERESTS, AND WE CONTINUE TO RELY ON
OUR THAI MILITARY CONTACTS TO CARRY THE PRINCIPAL BURDEN OF
JUSTIFYING OUR PRESENCE TO THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE THAI GOVERN-
MENT, TO THE THAI PUBLIC AND THE PRESS, AND EVEN TO THE CRITICAL
POLITICIANS ATSEITUDENT GROUPS.

3. I BELIEVE URGENT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE THE THAI
MILITARY RENEWED ASSURANCES OF OUR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT.
AS A MINIMUM, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ALLOT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY
A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE $35.7 MILLION MAP (EXCLUDING
PCH & T) PRIMISED TO THEM EARLIER IN THE YEAR. IF THERE IS TO
BE ANY SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALL, WE NEED TO HAVE A VIABLE EXPLAN-
ATION AND BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE THEM REALISTIC ADVICE AS
TO WHAT TO EXPECT FOR THE FUTURE.

4. I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT IF THE THAI CONCLUDE WE ARE
RENEGING ON ANY MEANINGFUL MAP AID IN THE CURRENT YEAR, IT
COULD COST US DEARLY, NOT ONLY IN RELATION TO RETAINING OUR
PRESENT BASE FACILITIES, BUT ALSO IN OTHER AREAS OF US/RTG
COOPERATION. IF FY 74 MAP GRANT/AID ALLOTMENTS ABSOLUTELY
MUST BE REDUCED, THIS MUST BE HELD TO MINIMUM TO PROTECT OUR
INTERESTS HERE. ALSO, I WOULD CONSIDER IT MOST DESIRABLE THAT
WE FIND SOME WAY TO BE FORTHCOMING ON RELATED AND RELATIVELY
INEXPENSIVE OR LONGER RANGE THAI REQUESTS, SUCH AS THE GIFT OF
HTMS PINKLAO, EVENTUAL ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING OV-10 OR OTHER
ACCEPTABLE REPLACEMENTS FOR THEIR AGEING T-28S, AND PROMPT
ACCEPTANCE OF RTG TERMS FOR TRANSFERRING BASE FACILITY SUPPORT
CONTRACTS TO THAI REGISTERED FIRMS. MASTERS

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